(b) if so, whether the three senior-most among the Chief Medical Officers (Ayurveda) have been overlooked and the fourth officer is being posted as Medical Superintendent;

(c) if so, the reasons for not considering the senior-most Chief Medical Officer for the post of Medical Superintendent; and

(d) the rules/procedure in this regard for selecting an officer for the post of Medical Superintendent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Cardiac Cath Lab in Safdarjung Hospital

2951. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether expenditure on setting-up the Cardiac Cath Lab in Safdarjung Hospital can be justified, as a large part of which would have been saved by doing angioplasty and stenting;

(b) the mortality rate of persons undergone by-pass surgery in this hospital during the last two years; and

(c) the proportionate number of cardiac invasive procedures and cardiac surgeries done in the AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Safdarjung Hospital has a full-fledged cardiology and Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery Department. Establishment of a cath lab is essential. Invasive procedure like angioplasty with stenting can be undertaken in the cath lab. Nonetheless, it is an essential investigative procedure to ascertain the site and percentage of blockage of carotid artery to facilitate coronary artery by pass and grafting surgery.

(b) The mortality rate of persons undergoing by-pass surgery in this hospital during the last two years is 5.6 percent.

(c) The total number of cardiac invasive procedure undertaken in Safdarjung Hospital (since establishment in October, 2001) in the cath lab and the total number of cardiac thoracic and vascular surgery during last two years are as under:—

Cardiac invasive procedure—314
Cardiac thoracic and vascular surgery—501

The information in respect of AIIMS is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Preventive measures to contain communicable diseases

2952. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate preventive measures are taken to contain communicable diseases in view of the report of pneumonic plague in village in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of reported communicable disease, number of people affected, deaths due to it, number of hospitals, number of doctors and paramedical staff appointed in this area for the last three years, State-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the details of research institutions working in this area, number of researchers, research fund granted, fund utilised and research publications in national and international primary journals published by above researchers for last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently there was an outbreak of acute febrile illness with haemoptysis (blood in sputum) in Hatkoti village of Shimla district which has been confirmed by National Institute of Communicable Diseases as pneumonic plague.

From 4th February till 14th March, 2002 out of the sixteen cases of